

In re Patent Application of
Gary L. Martin
Serial No. 09/801,512
Filed **March 7, 2001**

In the Claims:

Please substitute the following amended Claims as set forth below. Struckthrough language indicates a deletion, and underlined language indicates an addition. The amendments are fully supported in the specification and no new matter is added.

SB3/1. (Currently amended) ~~An~~ A two-piece elongate continuous soffit panel having an adjustable width, said soffit panel comprising:

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a first member having a soffit portion including a proximal periphery and a generally parallel and spaced apart distal periphery extending along a lengthwise dimension of said soffit panel, and having a fascia portion coextensive with the soffit portion along the distal periphery and extending generally upwardly therefrom for fastening said soffit panel to roof fascia of a building; and

a second member connected to said first member and having a flange portion extending generally at an angle from the soffit portion of said first member for fastening the soffit panel to a side of a building, said second member being adjustably connected to said first member so that the width of the soffit panel is adjustable responsive to variations in distance between the side of the building and the roof fascia.

2. (Original) The soffit panel of Claim 1, wherein said second member includes a channel for therein engaging the proximal periphery of the soffit portion thereby adjustably connecting the first member to the second member so that the width of the soffit panel is adjustably responsive to variations in distance between the side of the building and the roof fascia.

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3.(Original) The soffit panel of Claim 1, wherein the soffit portion includes at least one opening for ventilation.

4.(Original) The soffit panel of Claim 1, wherein the soffit portion further comprises a drip lip to help prevent water from running along the soffit portion toward the side of the building.

5.(Original) The soffit panel of Claim 1, wherein said soffit panel further comprises sheet metal.

6.(Original) The soffit panel of Claim 1, wherein the soffit panel comprises aluminum sheet metal.

7.(Original) The soffit panel of Claim 1, wherein the fascia portion is dimensioned to serve as the roof fascia.

8.(Original) The soffit panel of Claim 1, wherein the flange portion extends generally upwardly from the soffit portion.

9.(Currently amended) The soffit panel of Claim 1, wherein the elongated lengthwise dimension is sufficient to provide a single continuous soffit panel for one wall of a building.

10.(Currently amended) A two-piece continuous soffit panel having an adjustable width, comprising:

a first member having a soffit portion, and a fascia portion; and

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cont. B1
a second member having a channel wherein a periphery of said first member is adjustably engaged to thereby connect the first member to the second member so that the width of the soffit panel is thereby adjustably responsive to variations in distance between the side of the building and the roof fascia.

11.(Currently amended) A building constructed having a roof eave including an two-piece elongate continuous soffit panel, said soffit panel comprising:

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a first member having a soffit portion including a proximal periphery and a generally parallel and spaced apart distal periphery extending along a lengthwise dimension of said soffit panel, and having a fascia portion coextensive with the soffit portion along the distal periphery and extending generally upwardly therefrom for fastening said soffit panel to roof fascia of a building; and

a second member connected to said first member and having a flange portion extending generally at an angle from the soffit portion of said first member for fastening the soffit panel to a side of a building, said second member being adjustably connected to said first member so that the width of the soffit panel is adjustable responsive to variations in distance between the side of the building and the roof fascia.

12.(Original) The building of Claim 11, wherein said second member includes a channel for therein engaging the proximal periphery of the soffit portion thereby adjustably connecting the first member to the second member so that the width of the soffit panel is adjustably responsive to variations in distance between the side of the building and the roof fascia.

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13.(Original) The building of Claim 11 , wherein the soffit portion includes at least one opening for ventilation.

14.(Original) The building of Claim 11 , wherein the soffit portion further comprises a drip lip to help prevent water from running along the soffit portion toward the side of the building.

15.(Original) The building of Claim 11 , wherein said soffit panel comprises sheet metal.

16.(Original) The building of Claim 11 , wherein said soffit panel comprises aluminum sheet metal.

17.(Original) The building of Claim 11 , wherein the fascia portion is dimensioned to serve as the roof fascia.

18.(Original) The building of Claim 11 , wherein the flange portion extends generally upwardly from the soffit portion.

19.(Currently amended) The building of Claim 11 , wherein the ~~elongated~~ lengthwise dimension is sufficient to provide a ~~single~~ continuous soffit panel for one wall of a building.

20.(Currently amended) A method of making an elongate continuous two-piece soffit panel having an adjustable width, the method comprising:

forming a first member including a soffit portion having a proximal periphery and a distal periphery disposed spaced apart, approximately parallel to each other,

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and extending along an elongated dimension of said soffit panel, and a fascia portion coextensive with the soffit portion along the distal periphery and extending generally upwardly therefrom;

forming a second member having a flange portion, and a connecting portion, the flange portion extending generally at an angle from the connecting portion; and

adjustably engaging the proximal periphery of the soffit portion of the first member with the connecting portion of the second member thereby connecting the first member to the second member along the proximal periphery of the soffit portion so that the width of the soffit panel can be adjusted.

21.(Original) The method of Claim 20 , wherein forming a second member includes forming a channel in the connecting portion, and wherein adjustably engaging comprises slidably engaging the proximal periphery of the soffit portion within the channel so that the width of the soffit panel can thereby be adjusted.

22.(Original) The method of Claim 20 , wherein forming the first member comprises positioning at least one opening in the soffit portion for ventilation.

23.(Original) The method of Claim 20 , wherein forming the first member comprises forming a drip lip extending along and spaced apart from the distal periphery.

24.(Original) The method of Claim 20 , wherein forming the first member and forming the second member comprise forming sheet metal.

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25.(Original) The method of Claim 24 , wherein forming the sheet metal comprises forming aluminum.

26.(Original) The method of Claim 20 , wherein forming the first member comprises forming the fascia portion dimensioned to serve as the roof fascia.

27.(Original) The method of Claim 20 , wherein forming the second member comprises forming the flange portion to extend generally upwardly from the soffit portion.

28.(Currently amended) The method of Claim 20 , wherein the first and second members are formed sufficiently elongated to provide a single continuous soffit panel for one wall of a building.

29.(Original) The method of Claim 20 , wherein the first and second members are formed on-site at a building construction site.

30.(Original) The method of Claim 20 , wherein the first and second members are formed on-site at a building construction site, and are connected and installed on the building within eight hours of formation.

31.(Currently amended) A method of constructing a building having at least one elongate continuous two-piece soffit panel having an adjustable width, the method comprising:

forming a soffit panel first member including a soffit portion having a proximal periphery and a distal periphery disposed spaced apart, approximately parallel to each other, and extending along an elongated a lengthwise dimension of said soffit

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panel, and a fascia portion coextensive with the soffit portion along the distal periphery and extending generally upwardly therefrom;

forming a soffit panel second member having a flange portion, and a connecting portion, the flange portion extending generally at an angle from the connecting portion;

connecting the first and second members together to form the continuous soffit panel by adjustably engaging the proximal periphery of the soffit portion of the first member with the connecting portion of the second member thereby connecting the first member to the second member along the proximal periphery of the soffit portion so that the width of the soffit panel can be adjusted by varying the engagement; and

fastening the continuous soffit panel to the building under a roof eave.

32.(Original) The method of Claim 31 , wherein forming the soffit panel second member includes forming a channel in the connecting portion, and wherein connecting comprises engaging the proximal periphery of the soffit portion within the channel so that the width of the soffit panel can thereby be adjusted.

33.(Original) The method of Claim 31 , wherein forming the soffit panel first member comprises forming at least one ventilation opening in the soffit portion.

34.(Original) The method of Claim 31 , wherein forming the soffit panel first member comprises forming a drip lip extending from the soffit portion.

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35.(Original) The method of Claim 31 , wherein forming the soffit panel first member and forming the soffit panel second member comprise forming sheet metal.

36.(Original) The method of Claim 35, wherein forming the soffit panel first member and forming the soffit panel second member comprise forming aluminum sheet metal.

37.(Original) The method of Claim 31 , wherein forming the soffit panel first member comprises forming the fascia portion dimensioned to serve as the roof fascia.

38.(Original) The method of Claim 31 , wherein forming the soffit panel second member comprises forming the flange portion to extend generally upwardly from the soffit portion.

39.(Currently amended) The method of Claim 31 , wherein forming the soffit panel first member and forming the soffit panel second member comprise forming said first and second members each sufficiently ~~elongated~~ extended along the lengthwise dimension to connect to each other as a single continuous soffit panel for one wall of the building.

40.(Original) The method of Claim 31, wherein the method is accomplished on-site at the building construction site.

41.(Original) The method of Claim 31, wherein the method is accomplished on-site at the building construction site within about an eight hour work shift.